

History of Oklahoma.

From the Report of Ex-Gov. Jenkins.

Historically considered, Oklahoma as a territory is of recent origin, but as a small portion of the great tract of southwestern country, known at various times and under various circumstances as Louisiana, Mandan Territory, the Great American Desert, uninhabitable lands and the Indian Territory, it has a place in the history of the nation dating back to the days of the Spanish explorers, who sought in the great Southwest unknown empires and their reputed fabulous wealth.

Following the course of travel described in many early Spanish manuscripts and books, one is readily convinced that the original Oklahoma boomers were the little army of adventurous spirits who traversed the Southwest under the leadership of De Soto, and that they were followed by Jesuits and others who sought wealth in the mineral veins of the mountains and hills of the Territory, there are unmistakable signs in lately discovered ruins of mines and places of early abode.

Lewis and Clarke visited the Territory in one of their early exploring expeditions, and the prairies and valleys of the Territory were the hunting grounds of the early tribes of Indians, from the earliest time of which there is record of the movements of the aboriginal Americans.

When the Indian Territory was created as a home for all of the Indian tribes, and with the intention of some day building there a great Indian State, most of what is now Oklahoma Territory was included within its bounds, and Washington Irving, who, in 1834, made a hunting trip here, describes most graphically the beauty and wealth of Oklahoma's natural endowments in his sketch, "A Tour of the Prairies."